



News Release

Dixie National Forest

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GRANTS AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT RECEIVED FOR MARKAGUNT OHV TRAIL SYSTEM (2 PAGES)

CEDAR CITY, UT – Through the generosity and cooperation of multiple businesses, counties, and OHV clubs, the Markagunt OHV Trail system received a boost in 2009. The Forest Service relies heavily on groups like these to support trail maintenance and user education programs.

Contributors this season have included:

- Grant awards: Yamaha Access GRANT, Polaris Industries Inc. T.R.A.I.L.S grant, and Garfield County Trails Committee
- Other funding: Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
- Trail reconstruction: Kane County Road Crew performed the trail construction work under a Good Neighbor Authority Agreement with Utah State Lands and Forestry.
- Volunteer/General support: Cedar Breaks Trailblazers, Skyridge Riders, and Cedar Mountain Sledders OHV clubs, Cedar City Motorsports-Yamaha and All Seasons Sports-Polaris.

The Cedar City Ranger District maintains the 400-mile Markagunt OHV Trail system, comprised of seven different trails that cover the ranger district. The trail contains opportunities for loops and day trips, as well as access to great scenic interest points. You can “get there from here,” using the OHV Trails to get to Brian Head, Duck Creek Village, Cascade Falls, Panguitch Lake, or Mammoth Cave.

The various Markagunt OHV Trail partners worked together to share education messages, conduct trail clean up days, and do trail maintenance projects. Some funds were used to purchase a new 3-panel information kiosk about the Markagunt OHV Trail system at the intersection of Highway 14 and the Mammoth Creek Road.

“We would not have this world class Markagunt OHV Trail system if it were not for the support and collaboration of these clubs, volunteers, and organizations,” said Marcia Gilles, OHV Coordinator on the Cedar City Ranger District. “They allow us to provide trail maintenance and education that we could not otherwise provide. We are very appreciative of Yamaha, Polaris, the State of Utah and both Garfield and Kane counties, along with the involvement of the OHV clubs. Their generous support of the Markagunt OHV Trail system is exceptional.”

Local OHV clubs donated countless hours of volunteer work. In 2008, over 1,860 hours were donated by clubs, with an in-kind valued contribution of \$36,288. We expect this 2009 season to be no different, with many individuals and groups donating their time and labor to making the Markagunt OHV Trail system such a great recreation opportunity.

Much of the grant money received this year went to the reconstruction of the Duck Creek OHV Trail. This trail is the main artery connecting Duck Creek to the Markagunt OHV Trail system, and provides access to riders of all abilities. Trail improvements include a hardened, sustainable trail tread which reduced trail widening and braiding of trails from users going around obstacles in the muddy low Duck Creek wetland areas, and has thus reduced sedimentation into Duck Pond. These improvements will make a difference given the high popularity of this trail – according to Forest Service trail counter data; approximately 19,000 riders traveled the heavily used Duck Creek Trail in the summer of 2008 alone.

For information about Yamaha's OHV Access Initiative, go to www.yamaha-motor.com/ohvaccess.

For information on Polaris' <http://www.polarisindustries.com>

Garfield County maintains a trails website at <http://www.utah-trails.com>

Utah State Parks and Recreation website <http://stateparks.utah.gov/ohv>

Information on OHV trails on Cedar City Ranger District

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/recreation/OHV/>

Duck Creek OHV trail improvements:



Before: Typical braided sections of tread along the Duck Creek OHV trail.



After: Aggregate hardened tread running surface.

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